

The Genus *Chelidonura* from the Marianas Islands

(Opisthobranchia : Cephalaspidea)

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THE MARIANAS ISLANDS, a part of Micronesia, are located in the Western Pacific south of Japan and north of New Guinea. Guam, the southernmost of the Marianas, is 13°28' north of the equator and Farallon de Pajaros, the northernmost of the Marianas, lies at 20°32' N.

From March 1969 through July 1971 very regular collections of opisthobranchs have been made at Guam both by snorkeling and by SCUBA diving. One brief collecting trip was made to Pagan in April, 1971, and another to Anatahan (16°22' N), Sarigan (16°42' N), Guguan (17°19' N) and Pagan (18°07' N) during the latter part of June, 1971. During this time 3 species of the genus *Chelidonura* have been observed:

Chelidonura hirundinina (Quoy & Gaimard, 1832)

Chelidonura fulvipunctata (Baba, 1938)

Chelidonura inornata (Baba, 1949).

Of the 3 species, more specimens have been found of *Chelidonura inornata* which has been seen at Guam during all months except September, October and November. *Chelidonura inornata* is numerous at Guam during the latter part of May, when the animals are frequently observed breeding. Specimens of *C. inornata* were also found at Sarigan and Pagan. Several were breeding at Sarigan during the latter part of June. *Chelidonura inornata* is most frequently encountered at depths of 20 to 30 feet (6 m to 9 m), but has also been found as deep as 65 feet (19.5 m) and on the reef top in less than 2 feet (60 cm) of water.

Chelidonura hirundinina has been found at Guam in January, February, June and July between 3 and 30 feet (90 cm and 9 m); at Sarigan in June at 20 feet (6 m); and at Pagan in April and June from 5 to 25 feet (1.5 m to 7.5 m).

Only 2 specimens of *Chelidonura fulvipunctata* have been collected at Guam, both from about 3 feet (90 cm) of water in a small boat channel which goes through the reef. One specimen was found at Pagan in June at 25 feet (7.5 m).

No *Chelidonura* were observed at Anatahan or Guguan.

Chelidonura inornata and *C. hirundinina* have previously been reported from Micronesia by MARCUS & MARCUS, 1965; *C. inornata* was found at Ifaluk, Caroline Islands and *C. hirundinina* was found in Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands.

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